

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 AID-20 IGA-02 DEAE-00 SNM-02 TRSE-00

EB-11 DRC-01 CU-04 /136 W

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P 201435Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5706

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BUENOS AIRES 1987

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AR, US

SUBJECT: CASP PRE-IG REVIEW

REF STATE 51716

1. EMBASSY COMMENTS AND MODIFICATIONS AS REQUESTED BY REFTEL ARE GIVEN BELOW. EMBASSY NOTES THAT PRE-IG MET MAR 5, YET EMBASSY DID NOT RECEIVE REFTEL REQUESTING MODIFICATIONS UNTIL MAR 15 AND IT WAS NOT IN HANDS OF ACTION OFFICER UNTIL AFTER NOON HOUR, THUS LEAVING ONLY TWO WORKING DAYS TO REPLY BY DEADLINE SET IN REFTEL. EMBASSY WOULD GREATLY HAVE APPRECIATED BEING ADVISED AT EARLIER DATE OF SUGGESTED MODIFICATION.

2. PARA THREE OF REFTEL MENTIONS INCONCISTENCY IN CASP EVALUATION REPORT. THIS IS OF COURSE MATTER OF INTERPRETATION. EMBASSY PERCEIVES NO INCONSISTENCY AND BELIEVES EXPLANATORY NOTE ALREADY ATTACHED SHOULD HAVE SUFFICED. HOWEVER, IN VIEW OF PRE-IG'S RECOMMENDATIONS, PAGE FOUR OF THE CASP EVALUATION REPORT IS MODIFIED AS FOLLOWS:
PARA A2 ITEM 2-2, WORDS "STATE AND DEFENSE" ARE DELETED.
CORRECTED SENTENCE READS "USG WILL RESPOND REASONABLY TO REASONABLE GOA REQUESTS TO PURCHASE U.S. MILITARY EQUIPMENT.

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PROGRESS SATISFACTORY RATING IN "NO."

REMARKS ARE CHANGED TO READ:

ARGENTINE OFFICIALS ARE KEENLY AWARE OF U.S. RESTRICTIONS,
PAST AND PRESENT, ON SALE OF "SOPHISTICATED WEAPONS" AND
THEREFORE ARE CONTINUING TO TURN TO THIRD COUNTRIES FOR
MAJOR PURCHASES. WHEREAS STATE AND DEFENSE ARE POSITIVELY
RESPONDING TO CURRENT GOA REQUESTS TO PURCHASE "UNSOPHISTICATED"
MILITARY EQUIPMENT FROM THE U.S., ARGENTINA CONTINUES TO
LOOK TOWARD EUROPE AS ITS MAJOR SOURCE OF ARMS DUE TO
CONTINUED U.S. CONGRESSIONAL RESTRICTIONS. THIS SITUATION IS
EXPECTED TO CONTINUE UNTIL USG MODIFIES RESTRICTIVE LEGISLATION
AND CONCURRENTLY ADOPTS NON-PATERNALISTIC ATTITUDES AND
POLICIES.

3. GOALS AND COURSES OF ACTION REQUESTED IN PARA FOUR OF
REFTEL ARE AS FOLLOWS:

A. ELIMINATION OF NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING

A-1. REESTABLISHMENT OF AN ACTIVE GOA/USG BINATIONAL
COMMITTEE CT

A-2. UPGRADING OF THE FEDERAL POLICE NARCOTICS UNIT
CAPABILITY THROUGH COMMODITY INPUTS CT

A-3. INVOLVEMENT OF THE BORDER PATROL IN NARCOTICS
ENFORCEMENT THROUGH COMMODITY INPUTS AND
TRAINING CT

A-4. INCREASED INVOLVEMENT OF CUSTOMS THROUGH COMMODITY
INPUTS AND TRAINING CT

A-5. POSSIBLE INVOLVEMENT OF COAST GUARD THROUGH
COMMODITY INPUTS AND TRAINING CT

4. NON-PRIORITY INTERESTS MENTIONED IN PARA SIX OF REFTEL
SHOULD ALL BE STRUCK. EMBASSY DID NOT AND DOES NOT BELIEVE
ANY OF THESE ITEMS WARRANT ANY MENTION OR THAT THEY CAN BE
DISCUSSED IN CONTEXT OF ARGENTINE SCENE IN ANY MEANINGFUL
WAY, EVEN WITHIN FRAMEWORK INDICATED BY PROCEDURAL
GUIDANCE. THEY WERE LISTED ONLY BECAUSE THEY HAD BEEN
DISCUSSED PREVIOUS YEARS AND EMBASSY WISHED TO SIGNAL THAT
THEY WERE BEING LEFT OUT NOT AS OVERSIGHT BUT BECAUSE OF
CONSCIOUS DECISION NOT TO TREAT THEM. PAGE 58 SHOULD
THEREFORE BE DISREGARDED.

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5. IN RESPONSE TO PARA 7(A) ADD THE FOLLOWING LEVEL OF
CONCERN: U.S. INTEREST: U.S. NATIONAL DEFENSE
ANTICIPATED CHALLENGES OR OPPORTUNITIES FY-75/76
THE U.S. NATIONAL DEFENSE CHALLENGE IN ARGENTINA IS TO
PREVENT THE MOVEMENT OF THE ARGENTINE NATION TOWARD A
POLITICAL SYSTEM ANTAGONISTIC TO U.S. NATIONAL SECURITY
INTERESTS. THE MAJOR OPPORTUNITIES INCLUDE CONTINUED
COOPERATION WITH THOSE MODERATE ELEMENTS OF THE ARGENTINE

SOCIETY WHO ARE SEEKING STABILITY ALONG WITH ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL GROWTH.

LEVEL OF CONCERN: FY 75 MEDIUM, FY 76 MEDIUM

EXPLANATION OF ASSIGNED LEVEL OF CONCERN

ARGENTINA HOLDS CONSIDERABLE GEOPOLITICAL INFLUENCE IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE. THE SEVERE POLITICAL FRAGMENTATION OF THE NATION COUPLED WITH A SERIOUS PROBLEM OF TERRORISM AND OTHER POLITICAL UNCERTAINTIES, MARKS ARGENTINA AS A HIGH RISK AREA. BOTH ARGENTINE HISTORY AND THE INCIPIENT POLITICAL INSTABILITY EXISTING IN ARGENTINA, INDICATE SOME POSSIBILITY OF ARGENTINA OPTING FOR POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY AND POLICIES OPPOSED TO U.S. NATIONAL INTERESTS. POSITIVE U.S. ATTITUDES AND POSITIVE U.S. RESPONSES IN SUPPORT OF REASONABLE ASPIRATIONS OF THE ARGENTINE NATION, INCLUDING THE ARGENTINE MILITARY, CAN ASSIST ARGENTINA IN ACHIEVING STABILITY AND GROWTH AND CAN SUPPORT CONTINUATION OF FAVORABLE U.S.-ARGENTINE RELATIONSHIPS.

6. RESOURCE LEVELS FOR CULTURAL PROGRAMS (PARA EIGHT (A) OF REFTEL) WERE INADVERTENTLY OMITTED BUT ARE AS SUGGESTED ON PAGE 54 OF CASP--I.E. 326 AND 355 THOUSAND DOLLARS FOR FY 75 AND FY 76 RESPECTIVELY.

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OMB-01 AID-20 IGA-02 TRSE-00 EB-11 DEAE-00

SNM-02 DRC-01 CU-04 /136 W

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P 201435Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5707

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BUENOS AIRES 1987

7. CLARIFICATION OF AID PROGRAM AND PERSONNEL LEVELS, AS REQUESTED, IS AS FOLLOWS:

TABLE 1 - ANNEX A

FY 73 AND FY74 ARE OK AS SHOWN.

FY 75 AND FY 76 SHOULD BE REVISED AS FOLLOWS:

FY 75: GRANT - 4; NARCOTICS - 100; RTAC - 120;

ADMIN - 30

FY 76: GRANT - 30; NARCOTICS - 100; RTAC - 130;

ADMIN - 20

IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THE FUNDS SHOWN FOR GRANT AND ADMINISTRATIVE PURPOSES ARE ILLUSTRATIVE AND COULD BE REDUCED OR INCREASED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PACE OF AID DISENGAGEMENT.

TABLE 2 - ANNEX A

FY 73 AND FY 74 TOTALS REMAIN AS SHOWN.

FY 75 AND FY 76 TOTALS SHOULD SHOW THE FOLLOWING:

FY 75: US DIRECT HIRE - 1RTAC; LOCAL DIRECT HIRES9(2 CONT
(2 TRG; (1 PROG; (4 RTAC; LOCAL CONTRACT 4 RTAC.

FY 76: US DIRECT HIRE - 1RTAC; LOCAL DIRECT HIRES8(2 CONT
(2 TRG; (4 RTAC; CONTRACT-LOCALS 3 RTAC.

8. DEA REGIONAL OFFICE NOW MAKES AVAILABLE TO US FOLLOWING INFORMATION ON SALARIES AND OPERATING EXPENSES ON REGIONAL BASIS: (ALL FIGURES IN U.S. DOLLARS)

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BARO SALARY EXPENSES: FY 1973 230,063; FY 1974 268,184;
FY 1975 296,916; FY 1976 325,648;

BARO OPERATIONAL EXPENSES: FY 1973 96,000; FY 1974 106,000
FY 1975 124,000; FY 1976 162,000;

TOTALS: FY 1973 326,063; FY 1974 374,184; FY 1975 393,916
FY 1976 487,648.

9. IT SHOULD BE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT DEA HAS REGIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES AND THEREFORE PARA EIGHT CARRIES REGIONAL RPT REGIONAL RATHER THAN COUNTRY EXPENSES AND THEREFORE MAY NOT CORRESPOND TO CASP FRAMEWORK.

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